

Minutes of the September 10, 2009 Animal Control Commission

The Animal Control Commission met on Thursday September 10, 2009 in the Council Chamber of City Hall.

Members present: Laura Bartrom, C.J. Jones, Sarah Davis, Lt. Chris Weaver, LPD and Ed Chosnek, Legal Counsel.

Absent: Tom Shutes, Jackie Becker and Michelle Warren

Citizens present: Robyn Poole, Judy Rippeth, James Taylor, Nancy Allen, and Merrick Steinmetz

Animal Control Officers present: Randy Hale and Monica Alcorn

Meeting called to order at 7:05 P.M. by Laura Bartrom, Chairman.

Ms. Bartrom introduced Sarah Davis the newest member of the Animal Control Commission. Ms. Davis is replacing Nancy Moore who has resigned from the Commission.

Ms. Davis moved to approve the minutes of the June 11, 2009 meeting. Mr. Jones seconded. Motion passed.

Lt. Weaver gave the following Animal Control Update: Statistics January to September 2009

- 3508 Animal Complaints logged
- 142 citations= 47-nuisance, 38-animal care, 43-licensing and 14 abandonment

Ms. Bartrom asked Lt. Weaver if any fines were issued for exceeding the amount pets allowed per household. Lt. Weaver responded there was only one complaint.

Violation Appeals from citizens:

Mr. Chosnek noted a request to appeal letter for an ordinance violation ticket had been received from Cassandra and James Corwin and asked if anyone was present for that ticket. No citizen appeared for this appeal. Mrs. Davis moved to deny the appeal, Mr. Jones seconded. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Chosnek noted a request to appeal letter for an ordinance violation ticket had been received from Roger Hilt and asked if anyone was present for that ticket. No citizen appeared for this appeal. Mrs. Davis moved to deny the appeal, Mr. Jones seconded. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Jones gave the following Almost Home Society Report: Statistics June 12 to September 2009

- 549 Animals taken in from the City of Lafayette

- 325 from Animal Control
- 19 from Police
- 173 from Public Drop off

Year to date:

- 1407 Animals taken in from the City of Lafayette
- 839 from Animal Control
- 73 from Police
- 497 from Public Drop off
- 37 of total were Ferrell Cats

There were no reports of other city officials.

Old Business:

Sub Committee Review-Ms. Bartrom noted no subcommittees had met to date, but the groups had been communicating via email.

Suggested ordinance changes-the following changes submitted by C.J. Jones were discussed.

10.01.010 Definitions

Animal Abandonment means an act in which a person who knowingly, intentionally or recklessly leaves an animal unattended, without proper food, water, or shelter, for twenty-four hours or more. (Abandonment of an animal is addressed in Section 10.01.061 but not defined)

After discussion, the Commission recommended this be added to the current ordinance.

Nuisance Animal means any animal that:

- 1) Interferes with a pedestrian(s) or a passing vehicle(s)
- 2) Attacks another animal or a person(s)
- 3) Is at large or unrestrained
- 4) Damages private or public property
- 5) Barks, whines, howls or makes other sounds common to its species in excess, continuously for 15 minutes, or for an aggregate 20 minutes in a one-hour period.

(Nuisance animals that cause excessive noise or damage property are addressed in Section 10.01.030)

Mr. Chosnek noted Nuisance Animals are already addressed in the current ordinance and recommended no changes. The Commission agreed.

10.01.022 Limit on ownership of dogs and cats

At no time shall the number of dogs exceed five, number of cats exceed seven, or the total number of dogs and cats exceed seven in any dwelling unit, structure or property. A person who

violates this section shall be punishable as provided in Section 10.01.100 of this code. (The section as it reads now states the limit is three dogs and three cats)

Discussion ensued regarding limit change and possible amendments to add for foster care providers as well as provisions for TNR (trap, neuter, release) Public input was heard from citizens. The Commission continued this subject to the next meeting for further public input and discussion.

10.01.040 Pet registration required

C. Any person owning an altered dog or cat may, as an alternative to an annual pet registration, obtain a microchip implant for the dog or cat for lifetime pet registration. This special permanent registration would be for the lifetime of the dog or cat for which they are the registered owner. Such residents shall not be required to annually purchase a new pet registration for the lifetime of such registered animals.

Alternatively we could have something that reads like:

It shall be unlawful for a person to own a dog or cat three (3) months of age or older which does not bear a permanent means of identification as provided in this section. The means of identification required by this section shall be in addition to any tags required to be worn by dogs or cats by state law or other provision of this Code, and shall be either by means of:

- (1) A microchip implanted in the dog or cat or animal which bears a registered identification number, and which can be read by a standard microchip scanner; **OR**
- (2) A permanent tag attached to a durable collar worn at all times by the dog or cat, and bearing the owner's current name, address and telephone number.

10.01.064 Lost or stray animals

Discussion include changing the limit of allowed pets to up to 5 dogs or 7 cats with limit of 7 pets total and to make provisions for foster care homes.

D. With the exception of the Almost Home Humane Society, the finder will be considered the found animal's owner for purposes of this chapter only after the animal is in the finder's custody for thirty (30) continuous days.

After discussion the Commission recommends deleting this sectioned or shortening the custody period.

Other suggested changes

Replace Tippecanoe County Humane Society with Almost Home Humane Society.

Addition of euthanasia as an article or under Article VI. Below is an article from Indianapolis' municipal code.

Sec. 531-601. Humane euthanasia of animals.

(a) The animal care and control division, other animal shelters, and/or public animal facilities which destroy animals in the city, shall use only such methods, materials and standards as approved by the American Veterinary Medical Association for said purpose. In no event shall an animal be euthanized inhumanely.

(b) The shelter shall provide sedatives for struggling or vicious animals when necessary for use during the euthanasia process and train its personnel in their proper and humane use and administration.

Sec. 531-602. Persons authorized to humanely euthanize animals.

Only persons trained in humane procedures by licensed veterinarians, by registered veterinary technicians, or by persons sanctioned and/or certified by the Humane Society of Indianapolis shall perform the euthanasia of animals in a humane manner.

Ms. Bartrom recommended deferring the discussion on euthanasia until Dr. Shutes could be present.

Mr. Chosnek will draft an amendment to the Ordinance with changes as discussed in this meeting and present it to the Commission for review. The Commission would then need to have a council sponsor to take the recommendations before the City Council for a vote on adoption of the changes.

The several citizens spoke during public comment regarding various animal control issues. Monica Alcorn, Animal Control Officer also spoke.

With no further business to come before the commission, Ms. Moore moved to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Shutes seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:20 P.M.

Complete Audio of the meeting is available on the city website. Minute prepared by Sue Scott, Deputy Clerk